

Special Called Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Las Cruces, New Mexico, held Monday, April 11, 1960, at City Hall at 7:30 p. m. with the Airport Advisory Committee and the Airport Manager.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Neleigh, Commissioners Moore, Noble, & Maddox.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Gutierrez.

OTHERS PRESENT: Airport Advisory Committee Members: Messrs. Seaborn Collins, Bob Crawford, Mark Thompson, Colonel Walters. Also present City Manager Gene Higgins and Airport Manager Jim Murklin.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Neleigh. Mr. Collins gave a report on the trip to Washington to the pre-hearing conference. He stated that ex-Senator Chan Gurney had stated that the only possibility of Las Cruces getting an airline in the near future was through negotiation with Frontier Airlines. Mayor Neleigh added that he had contacted officials in El Paso who indicated that they would meet with us after more information has been obtained. Mr. Collins talked to Judge Bann, who assured County Cooperation, but could not speak for the City of El Paso.

Discussion followed as to the possibility of other airlines coming in. Following this, Mr. Murklin gave a progress report on the development of the West airport. He stated that the purpose in going out there was two-fold 1. To develop the flight research business. 2. To develop a fixed base operation. In his report, he stated that his insurance alone is \$5,000 a year and upon expansion, may go up to \$9,000 a year. After Mr. Murklin had

finished his report, he stated that the City is not large enough for two airports. He felt that the East Airport had served its purpose, and he wanted to consolidate the two, letting them cooperate and grow into a municipal airport.

There was discussion as to the coating of the runways at the West Airport. Mayor Neleigh stated that he thought this had been discussed previously when a bond issue was passed. One thing stipulated in that bond issue was that the runways should have a shot of asphalt. Mayor Neleigh stated that he has learned since that time that one shot is not enough to get a contractor in for the job. He suggested having the highway testing laboratories send some men down to check it and give specifications. It may be possible they will help us with it, if the City supplied the material. Mr. Collins suggested getting a price on the other taxi-ways and runways if we expect to get airline service in here.

Mr. Crawford stated that he could not see closing the east airport. Discussion followed as to the investments in the east airport. Mr. Higgins stated that there was a problem with the east airport in that part of the runway is on privately owned land. Mayor Neleigh stated when the land for the airport was acquired, it was acquired for airport purposes and must be used for such.

Mr. Higgins stated that approximately \$17,000 was left from the \$50,000 GO Bond passed on the West Airport. We were paid \$14,544 for 90% participation in the lighting of it from the Government. When payments are made, we will have about \$16,000 left with which to work.

Mayor Neleigh asked if there was any objection to having the Highway people down to give specifications. It was agreed that this would be looked into.

Mayor Neleigh stated that he did not think that the abandoning of the East Airport could even be discussed at the present time. Mr. Noble asked about extending the scope of the condemnation of the property. He stated that perhaps an unrestricted deed of some sort could be obtained.

It was decided that the possibility of obtaining aid from the Highway Department would be checked and also the possibility of obtaining a General Usage Deed and the legal problems involved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p. m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk